

#1

NOW!

MARVEL

#1

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • STEFANO CASELLI • MARTE GRACIA

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™



RIRI WILLIAMS IS
IRONHEART

THERE'S
NOTHING WRONG
WITH HER.

IT'S QUITE
THE OPPOSITE,
ACTUALLY.

QUITE THE
OPPOSITE.

THESE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE
FLARED UP ARE DUE TO THE FACT
THAT...SHE'S **BORED**.

BORED?

SHE'S
FIVE YEARS
OLD.

SHE HAS
TOYS. SHE HAS
TV. WHEN I WAS
A KID...

YOUR DAUGHTER
HAS TESTED AT THE
LEVEL--WHAT THEY NOW
REFER TO AS **SUPER
GENIUS**.

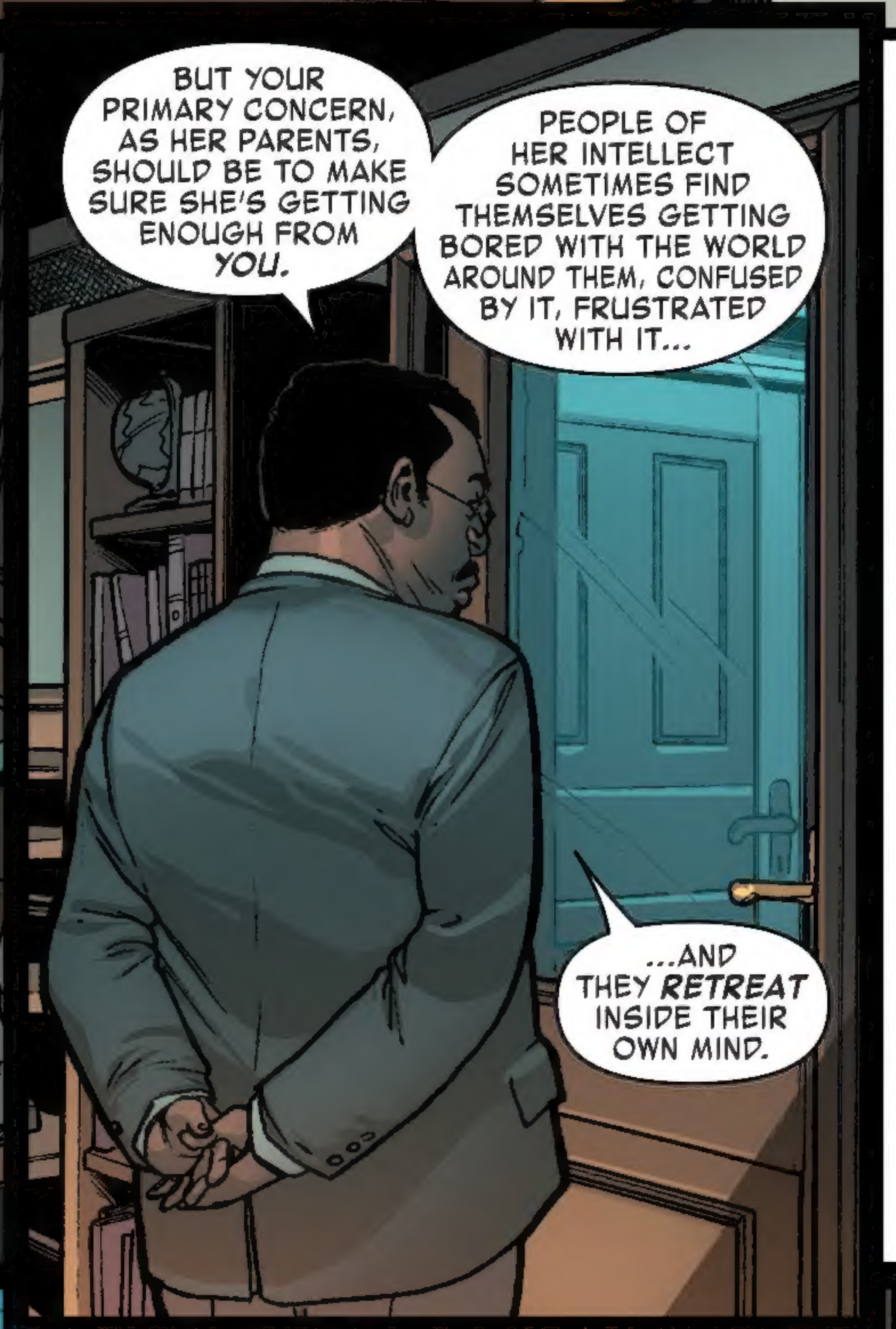
THERE WAS GENIUS
AND NOW THERE IS ALSO
SUPER GENIUS.

I DON'T
THINK YOU HAVE
TO **BE** A SUPER GENIUS
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT
THAT MEANS.

SHE'S BORED
BECAUSE SHE'S
SMARTER THAN YOU,
SMARTER THAN
ME...

...AND YOU
ARE GIVING HER
SESAME STREET, **DOLLIES**
AND **APPLE JUICE** IN A
CARDBOARD BOX.

SHE IS
ACTING UP OUT OF
BOREDOM.



**I
LOVE THIS
WORLD!**



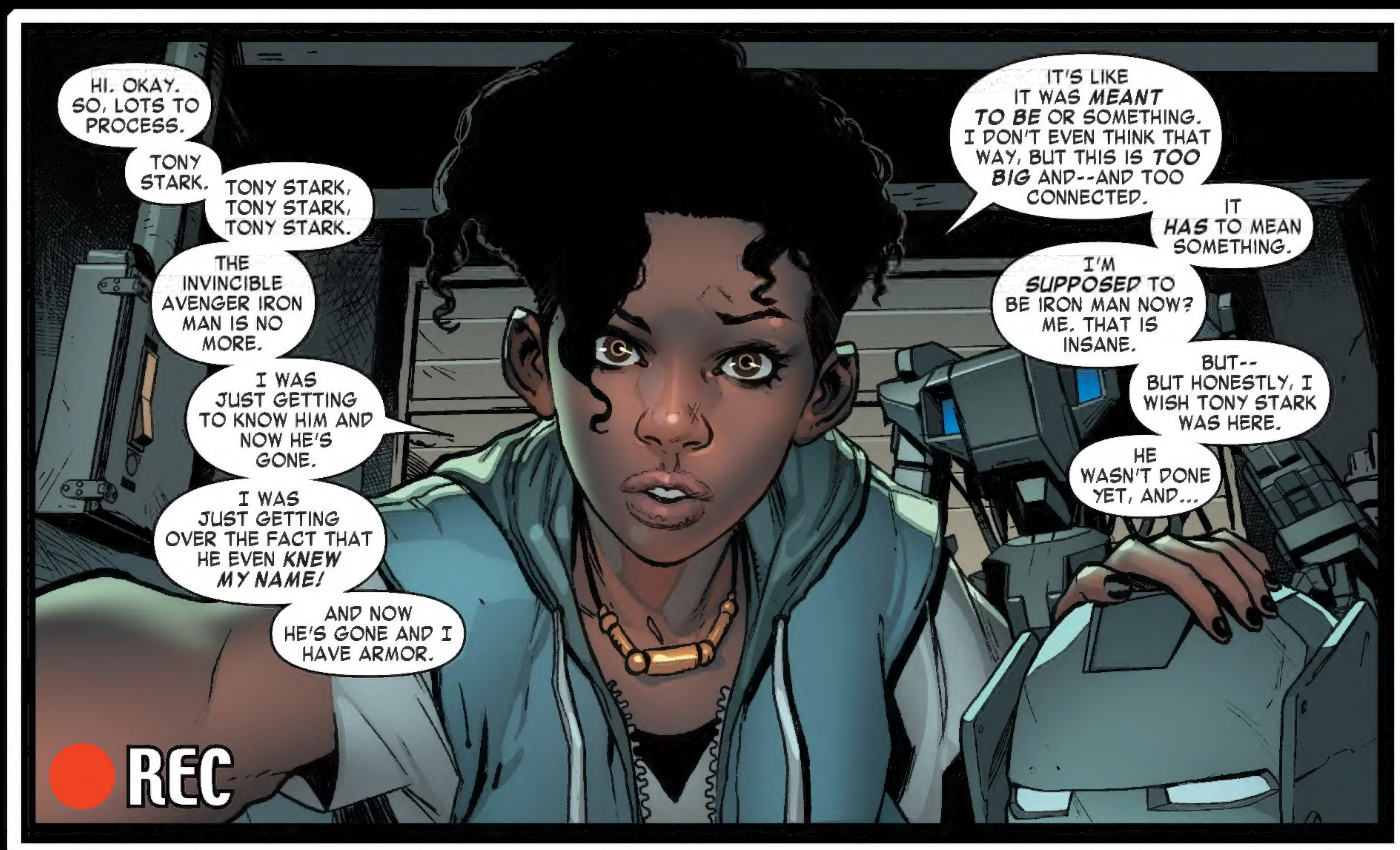
INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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MICHAEL BENDIS**
WRITER

**STEFANO
CASELLI**
ARTIST

**MARTE
GRACIA**
COLOR ARTIST

**VC's CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER

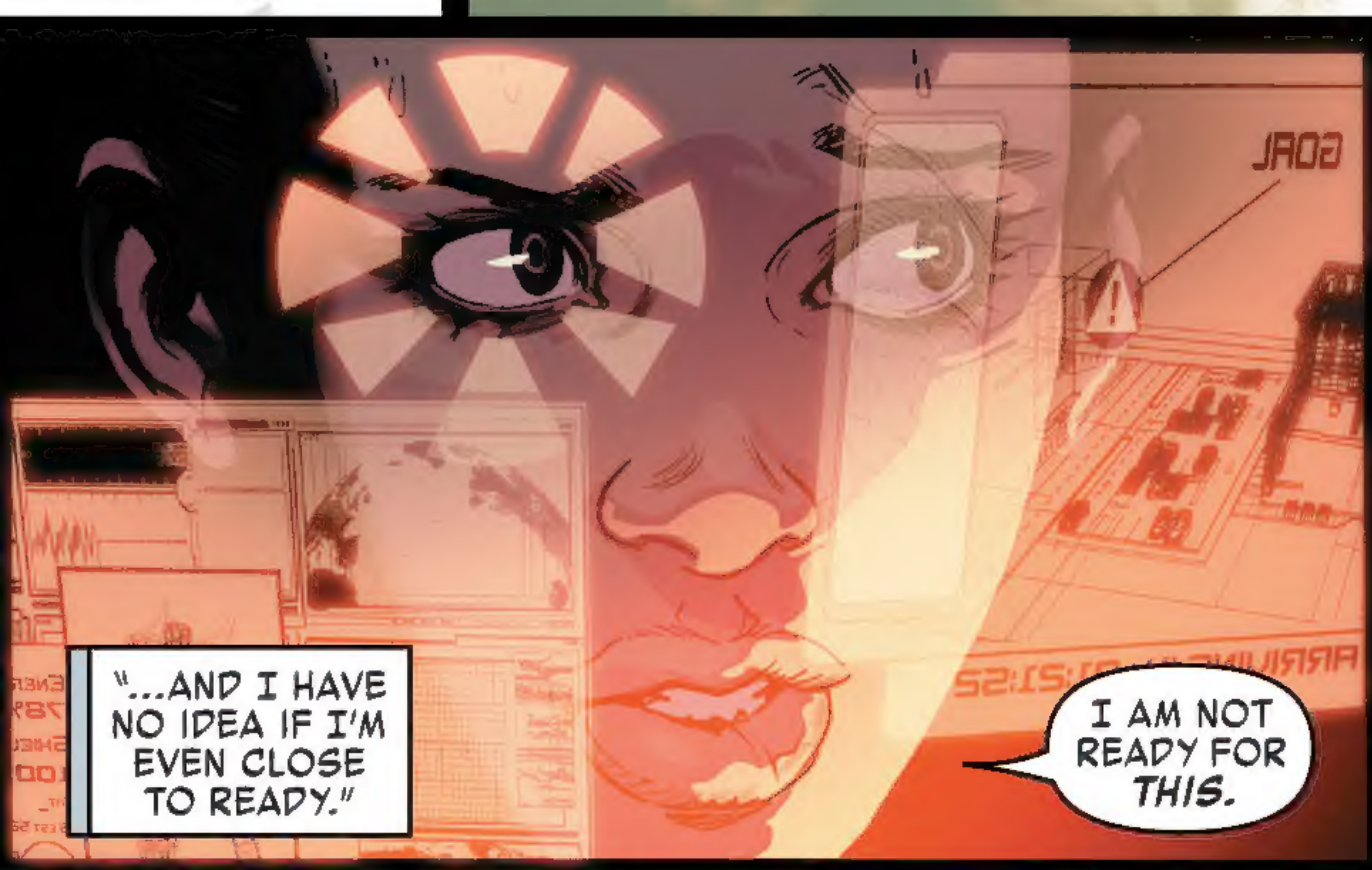


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IRON MAN **CREATED BY** STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK **AND** JACK KIRBY



"...AND I HAVE NO IDEA IF I'M EVEN CLOSE TO READY."

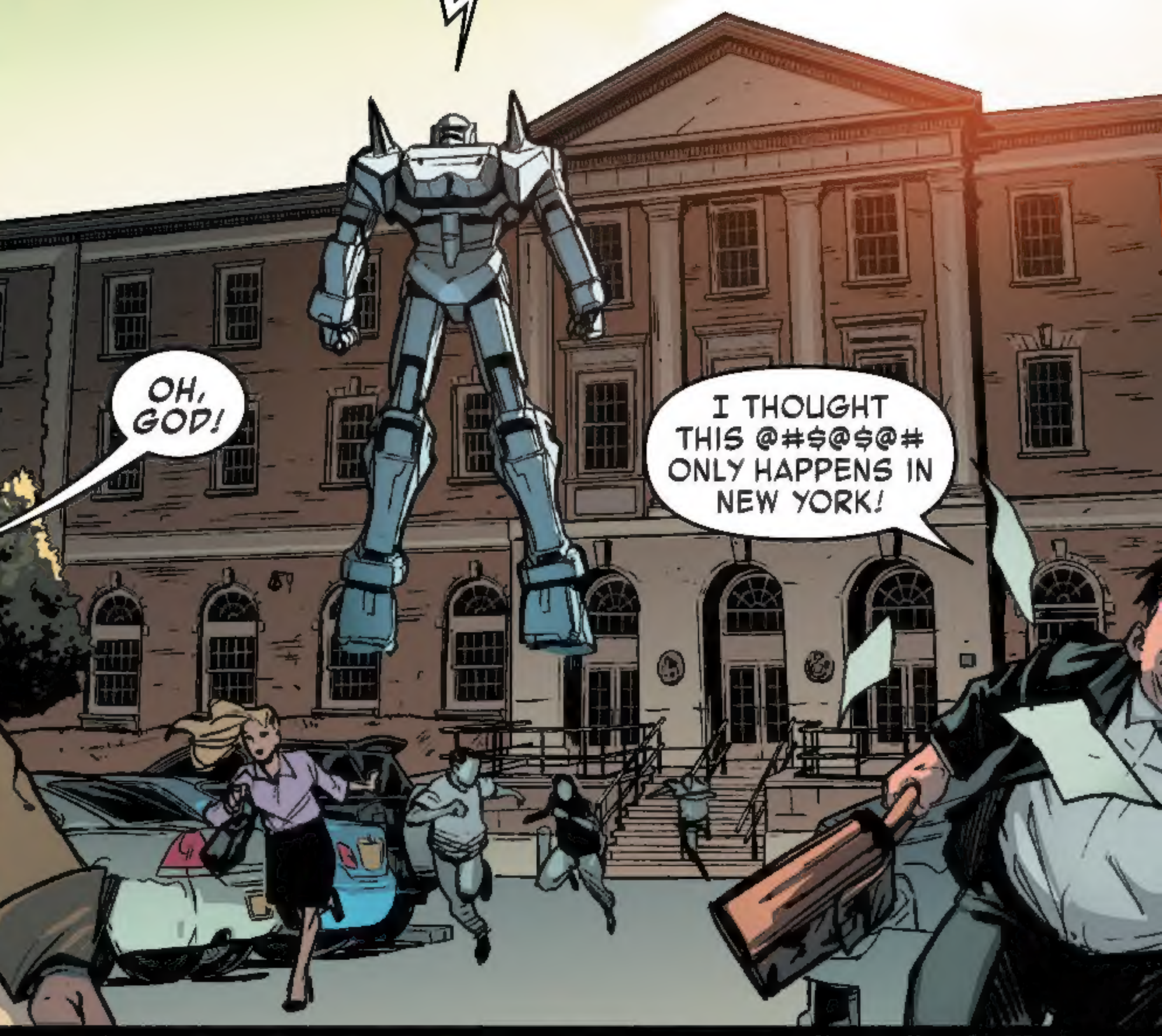
I AM NOT READY FOR THIS.

CHEYENNE, WYOMING.

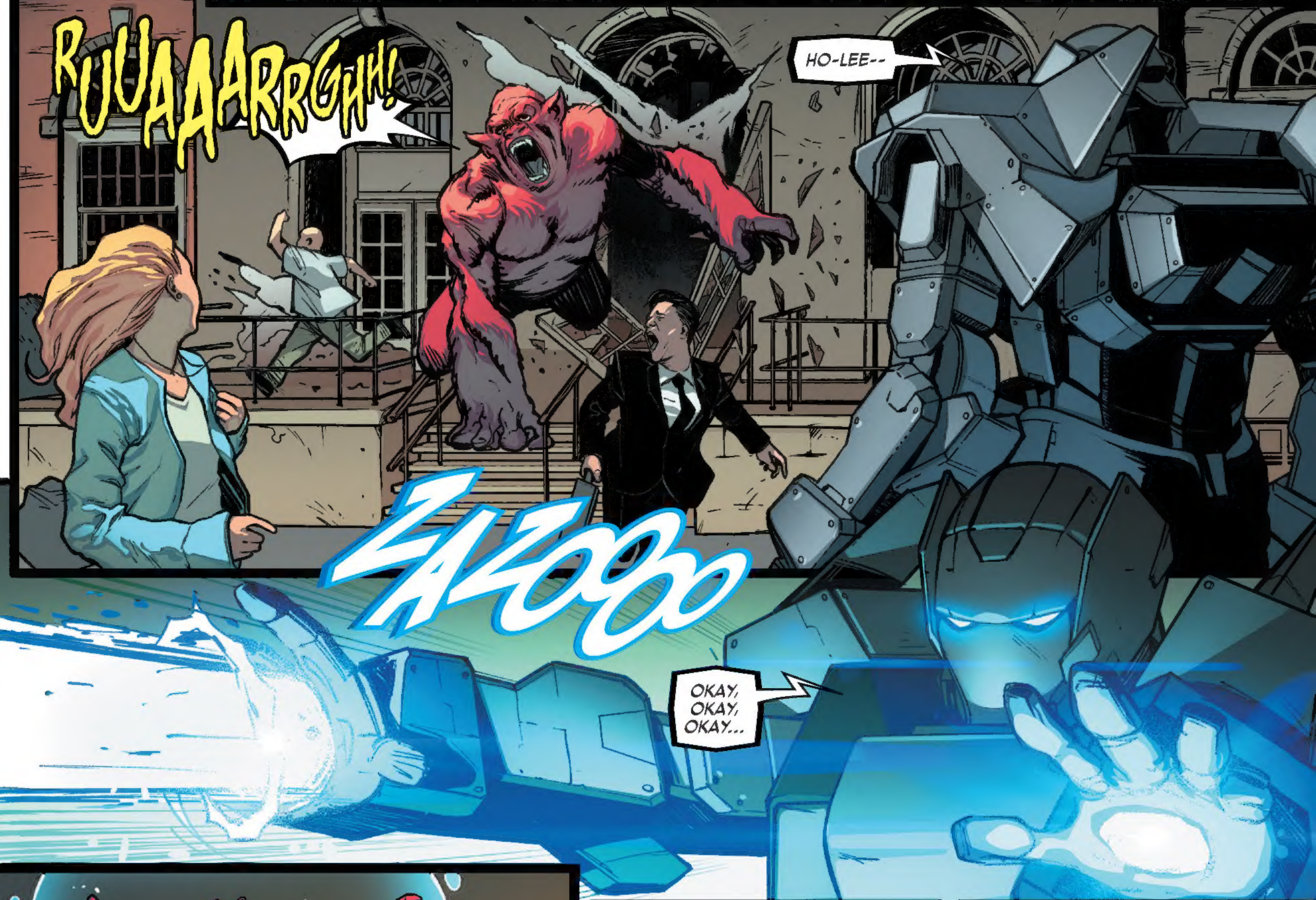
WHATEVER THIS IS.



OH, GOD!



I THOUGHT THIS @\$\$@\$\$@# ONLY HAPPENS IN NEW YORK!



RUUAAARRGH!

HO-LEE--

ZOOO

OKAY, OKAY, OKAY...



HOOF. ZERO-POINT ENERGY. A LITTLE EARLY 2000s, BUT WHATEVER... ...MONSTER CAUGHT.



A MONSTER! THAT'S A LITTLE SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY...



YOU
HYPOCRITES
WERE GOING TO
PUT ME IN THE
LOONY
BIN!

AND
YOU THOUGHT
I'D JUST SIT
THERE AND LET
YOU?!

WHO'S
THE CRAZY
ONE?

I AM
ANIMAX!

AND NOW
YOU WENT AND
PISSED ME
OFF.

SO SAY
GOODBYE TO
THIS CRAPHOLE
YOU LIVE
IN...

...BECAUSE
I'M TEARING IT
ALL DOWN ON MY
WAY OUT OF
HERE!



COMPUTER,
SHOW ME EVERYTHING
ON ANIMAX.

BUT I KIND
OF THINK--

--I GET
THE GIST--

OOOF!

SEARCHING...

OKAY, I HAVE TO
GET A REAL ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE.

EVEN MY SUPER-FAST
HOMEGROWN COMPUTER
SYSTEM IS NOT GOING
TO CUT IT IN THE HEAT
OF WHATEVER THIS--

SMACKKX



UGH!

WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
NOW?

WHY
IS THERE
AN ARMORED
SUPER-PERSON IN
THE MIDDLE OF
WYOMING?



THE ONLY
REASON TO LIVE
OUT HERE IN THIS
NIGHTMARE IS THAT YOU
HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF
NOT RUNNING INTO ONE OF
YOU GLORY HOUNDS--
UGH! YOU KNOW
WHAT?

I DON'T
CARE WHO
YOU ARE OR WHY
YOU'RE IN MY
WAY...

**JUST
DIE!**

CHICAGO.
FIVE YEARS AGO.

RIRI?

RIRI,
HAVE YOU EATEN
LUNCH?

RIRI!

HMM?

WHAT?

HAVE YOU
EATEN?

IS
BREAKFAST
OVER?

LUNCH
IS OVER.

OH.

PUT
THE TOYS
AWAY AND GO
OUTSIDE AND
PLAY.

I'M
WORKING.

YOU'VE
WORKED
ENOUGH.

IS IT TIME TO EAT OR
TIME TO GO TO THE
PARK?

YOU'RE
TEN YEARS
OLD. GO TO
THE PARK.

RIRI.

JUST--JUST LET
ME FINISH THIS UP AND THEN
I'LL--I'LL EAT AND FROLIC
AND DO WHATEVER...

FIVE
MINUTES.

FIVE
MINUTES.





KIND OF.

LIKE, OKAY, WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE SUPER HERO?

SPIDER-MAN.

REALLY?

TOTALLY.



I DON'T LIKE SPIDERS, BUT WHATEVER...

LET'S SAY SPIDER-MAN WAS CAPTURED.

LIKE, I DON'T KNOW, DOCTOR DOOM CAPTURED HIM AND HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET HOME IN TIME TO DO WHATEVER HE DOES WHEN HE'S NOT SPIDER-MAN.



THE IDEA HERE IS HE PUSHES A BUTTON ON, LIKE, HIS WATCH AND IT UNLEASHES THIS PRE-PROGRAMMED BOT AND IT COVERS FOR HIM.

IT E-MAILS HIS BOSS SAYING HE'S SICK, IT FEEDS HIS CAT, IT GETS A MESSAGE TO THE OTHER HEROES.

THAT'S COOL.



BUT IT NEEDS TO BE SMALLER.

IT NEEDS TO BE A TINY BUTTON ON A WATCH OR--OR A BELT BUCKLE.

I WANTED IT TO BE A TECH-TATTOO ON THE SURFACE OF THE SKIN, BUT--UGH--I'M NOT THERE YET.



YOU KNOW, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE JUST SUPER HEROES. ANYONE IN THE WORLD WOULD WANT THIS.

"I MISSED MY FLIGHT." "I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL..."

YEAH, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I MEAN, ANYONE COULD USE IT.

YOU JUST NEED A NAME.



MY NAME IS RIRI.

NO. I MEANT THE THING YOU'RE BUILDING NEEDS A NAME.

I'M NATALIE.

YEAH, I'M TERRIBLE AT NAMING THINGS.



OW!

ANIMAX IS A CRIMINAL
WITH A SHORT BUT
ACTIVE POLICE RECORD.

SHE IS LEGALLY
LABELED HOMO
SUPERIOR. MUTANT.



A MUTANT? WELL, THAT
EXPLAINS THE SUDDEN
OUT-OF-NOWHERE BURSTS
OF, UM, CREATURES?

HER MUTANT POWER
ALLOWS HER TO CREATE
GENETIC MONSTERS OUT OF
HER OWN DNA EXTRACT--

WELL, I
CAN SEE
THAT!

SHE WAS RECENTLY
IMPRISONED FOR TRYING
TO ROB AN AIRPORT ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH.

SHE WAS
STOPPED BY THE
CHAMPIONS.



CAN'T I GET
ONE DAY OFF FROM
THESE @@@@
SUPER HEROES?!



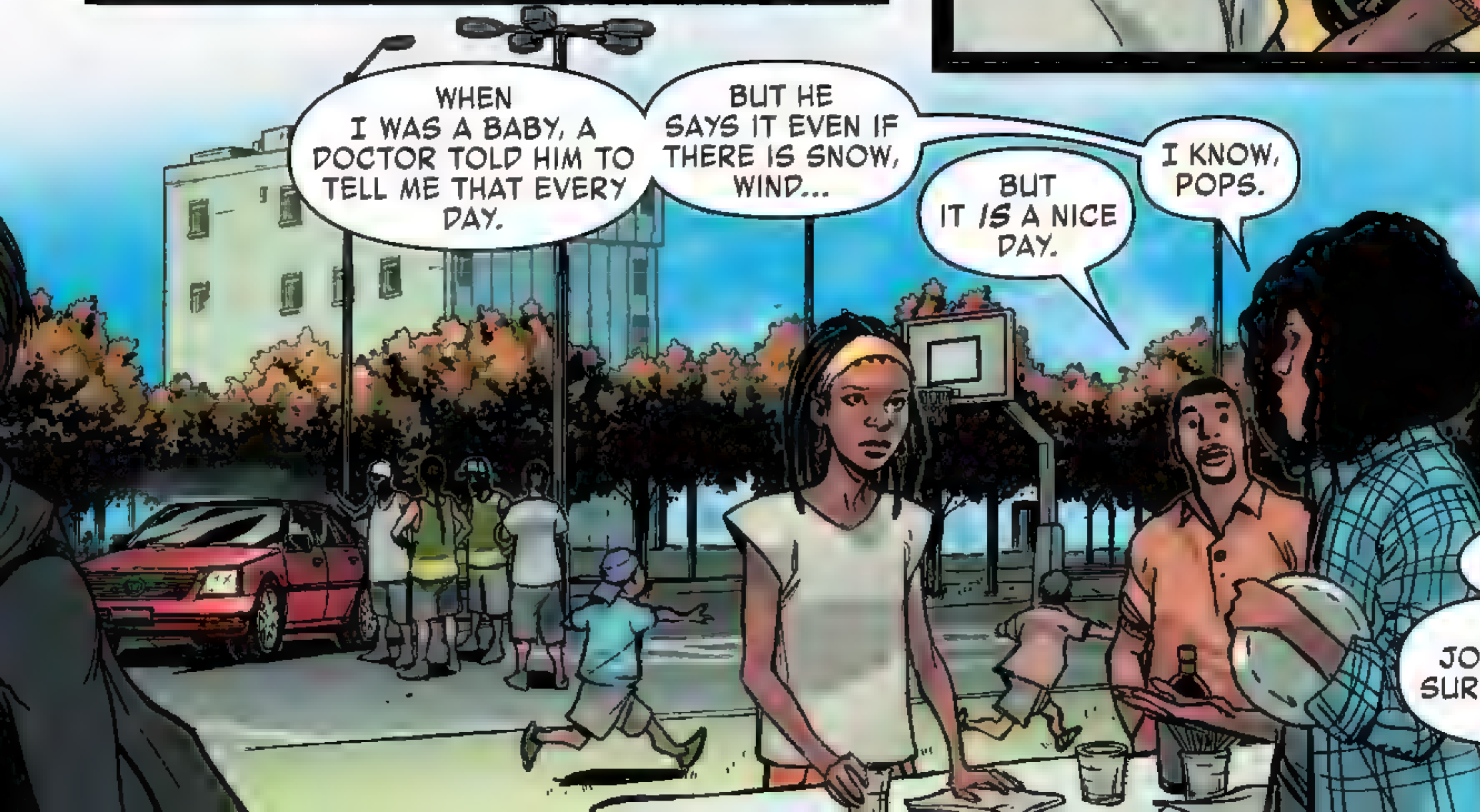
HEY,
I CAN HEAR
YOU!

EVASIVE ACTION
REQUIRED.

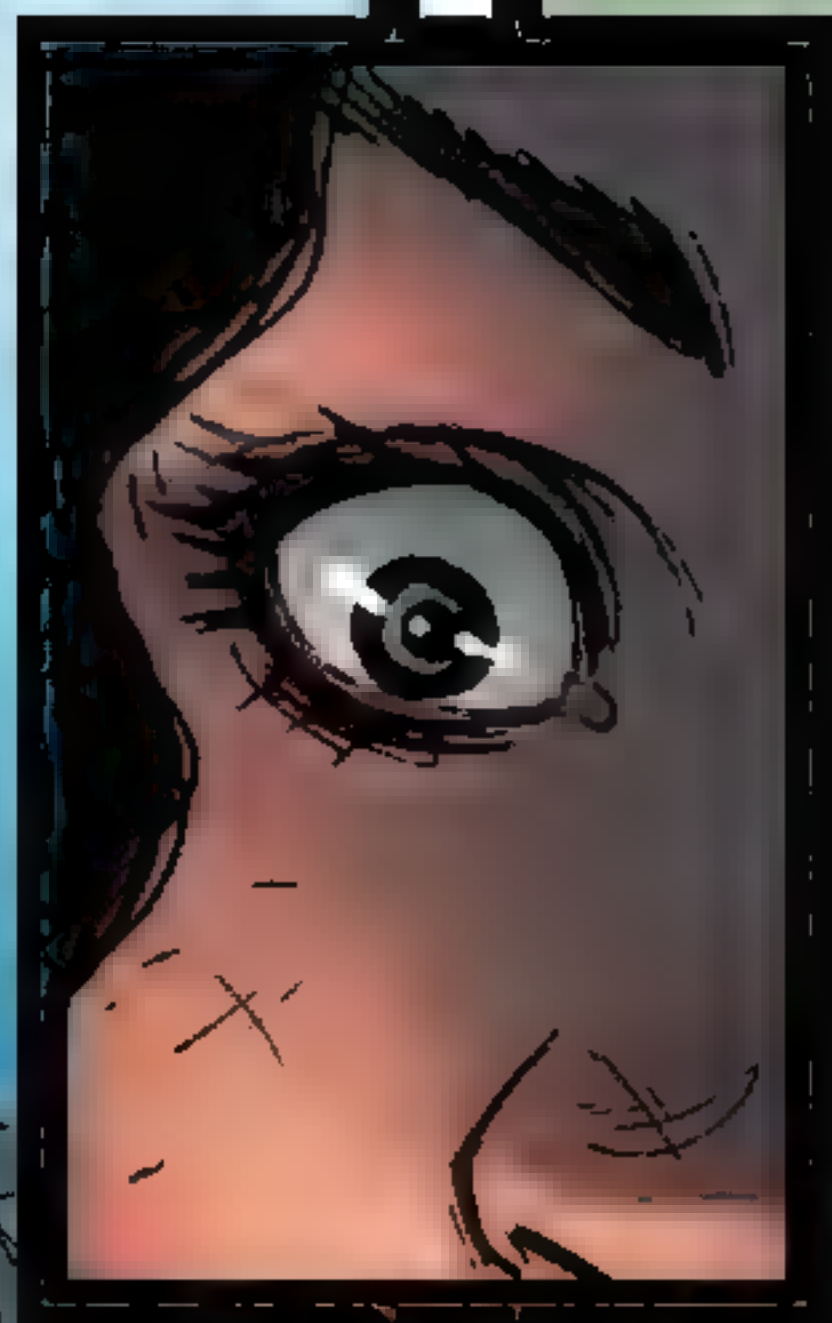
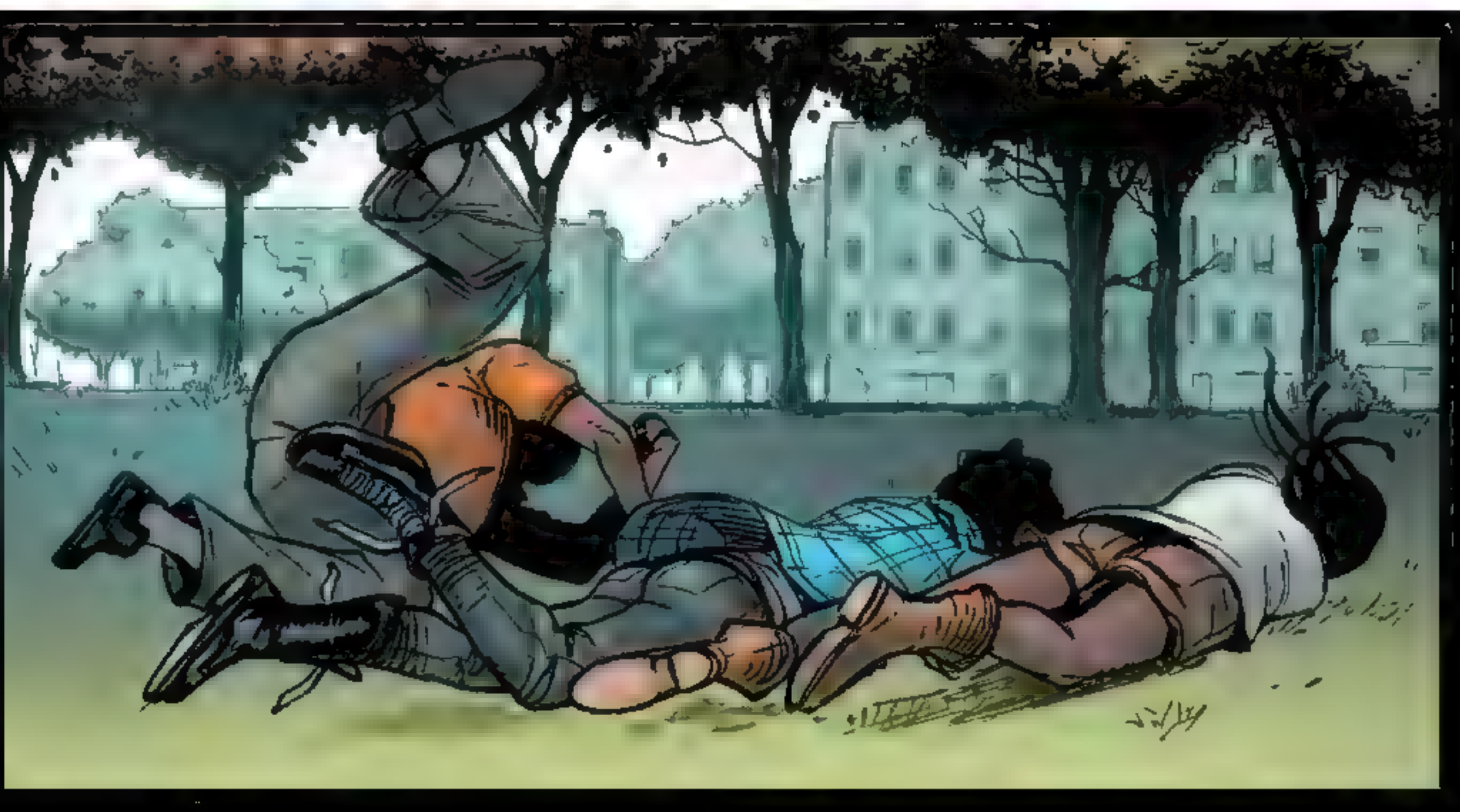
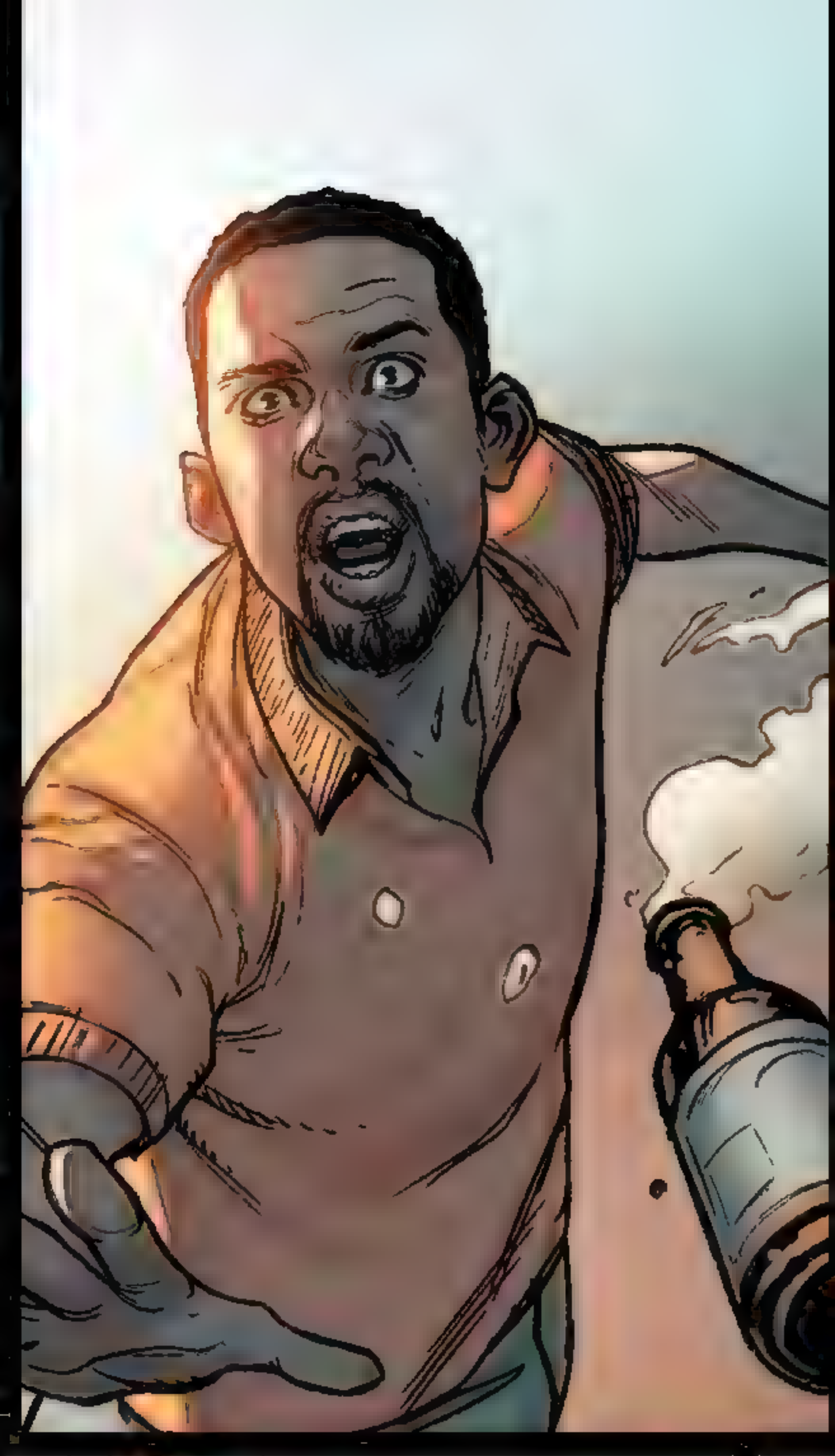
WHY? I CAN
SEE THE--
UH-OH.

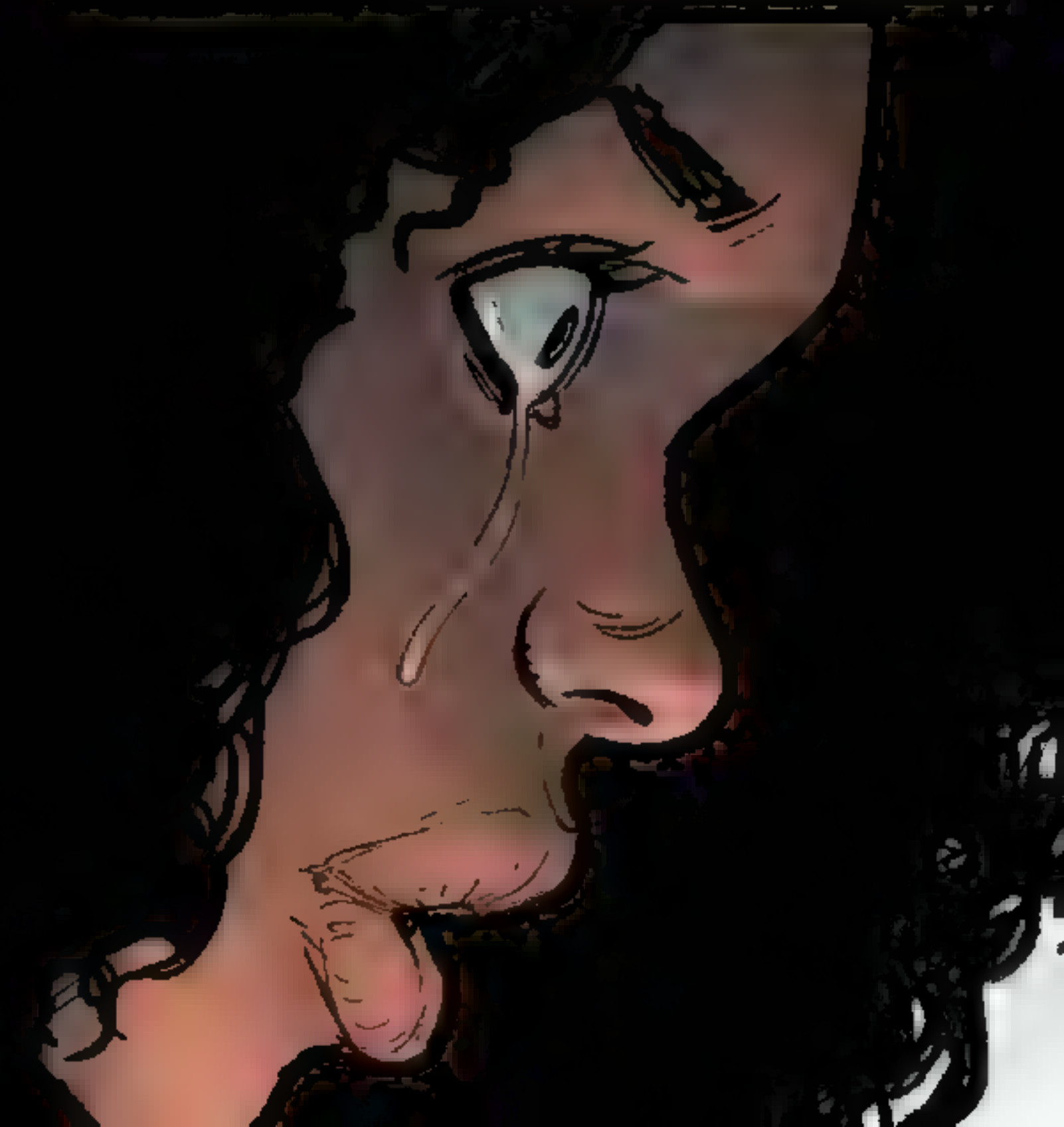
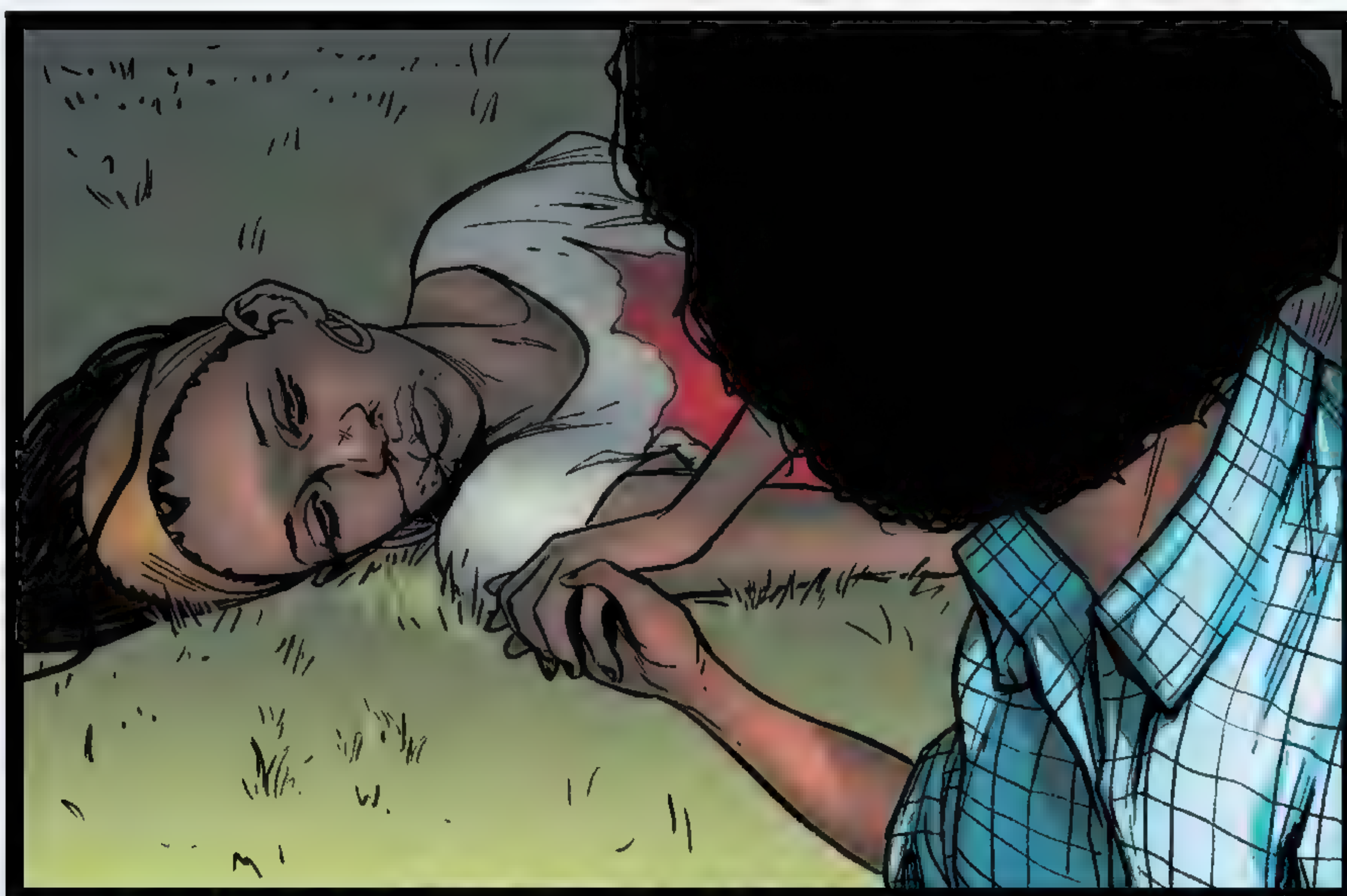
MARQUETTE PARK.

TWO YEARS AGO.











I SHOULD HAVE SHUT THIS DOWN BY NOW.

ANIMAX FIRST APPEARED IN TEMPE, ARIZO--

SHUT UP!

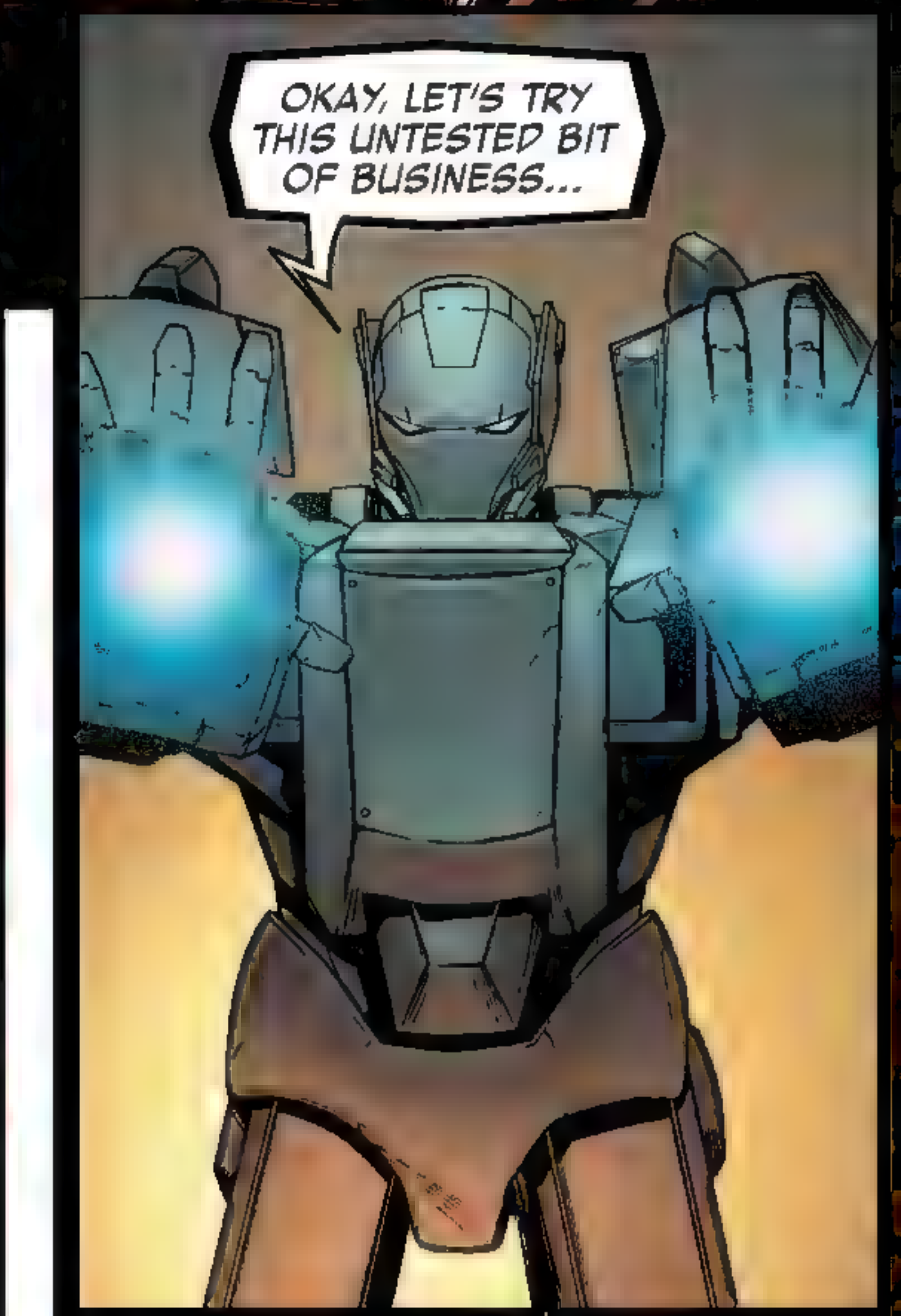
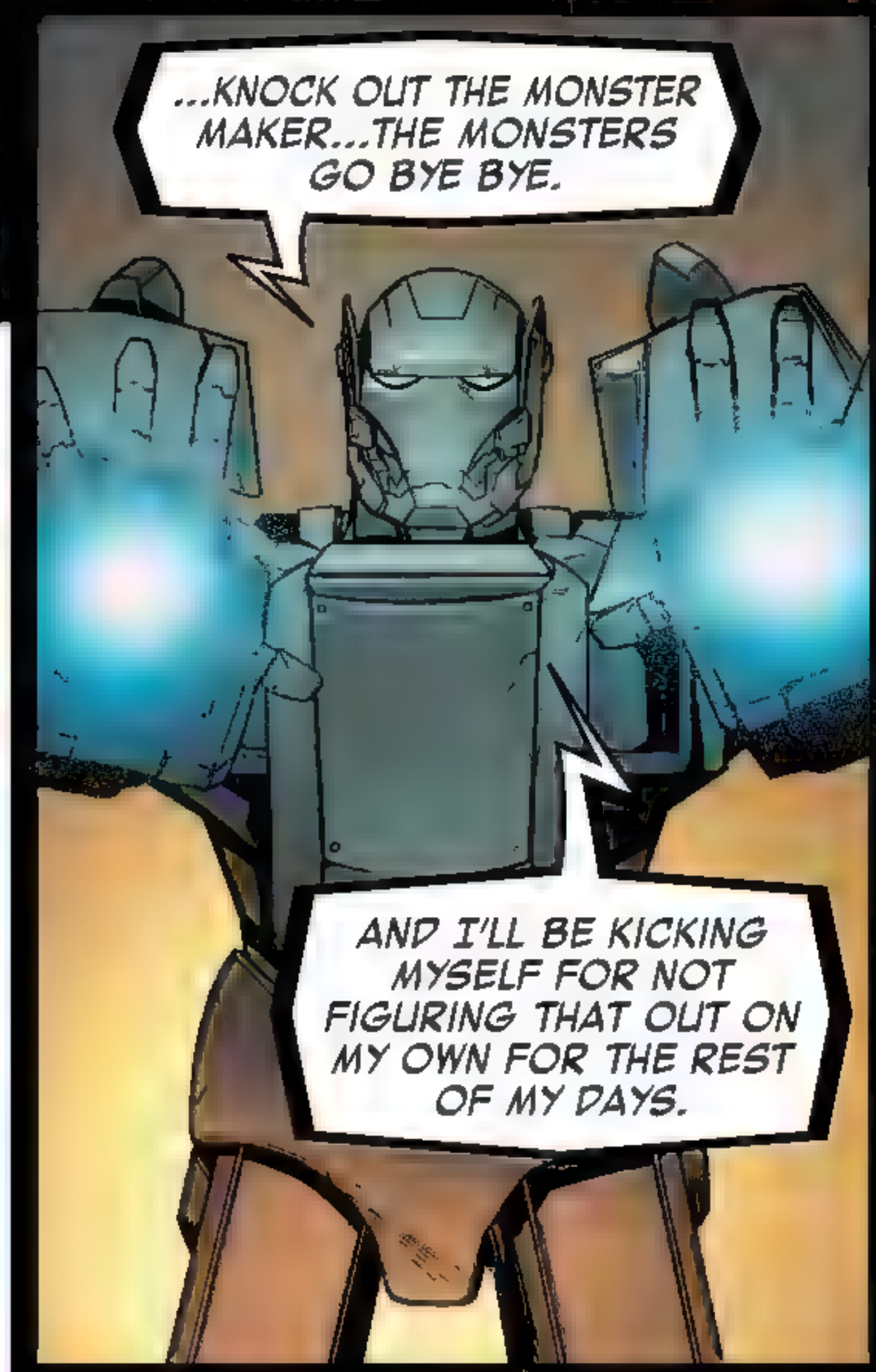
COME ON!

STARK WOULD HAVE HAD THIS WRAPPED UP AND BEEN HOME ALREADY.

YOUTUBE FOOTAGE OF ANIMAX'S FIGHT WITH THE X-MEN IS AVAILABLE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?

UH, YEAH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK.

I SAID SHOW ME EVERYTHING.

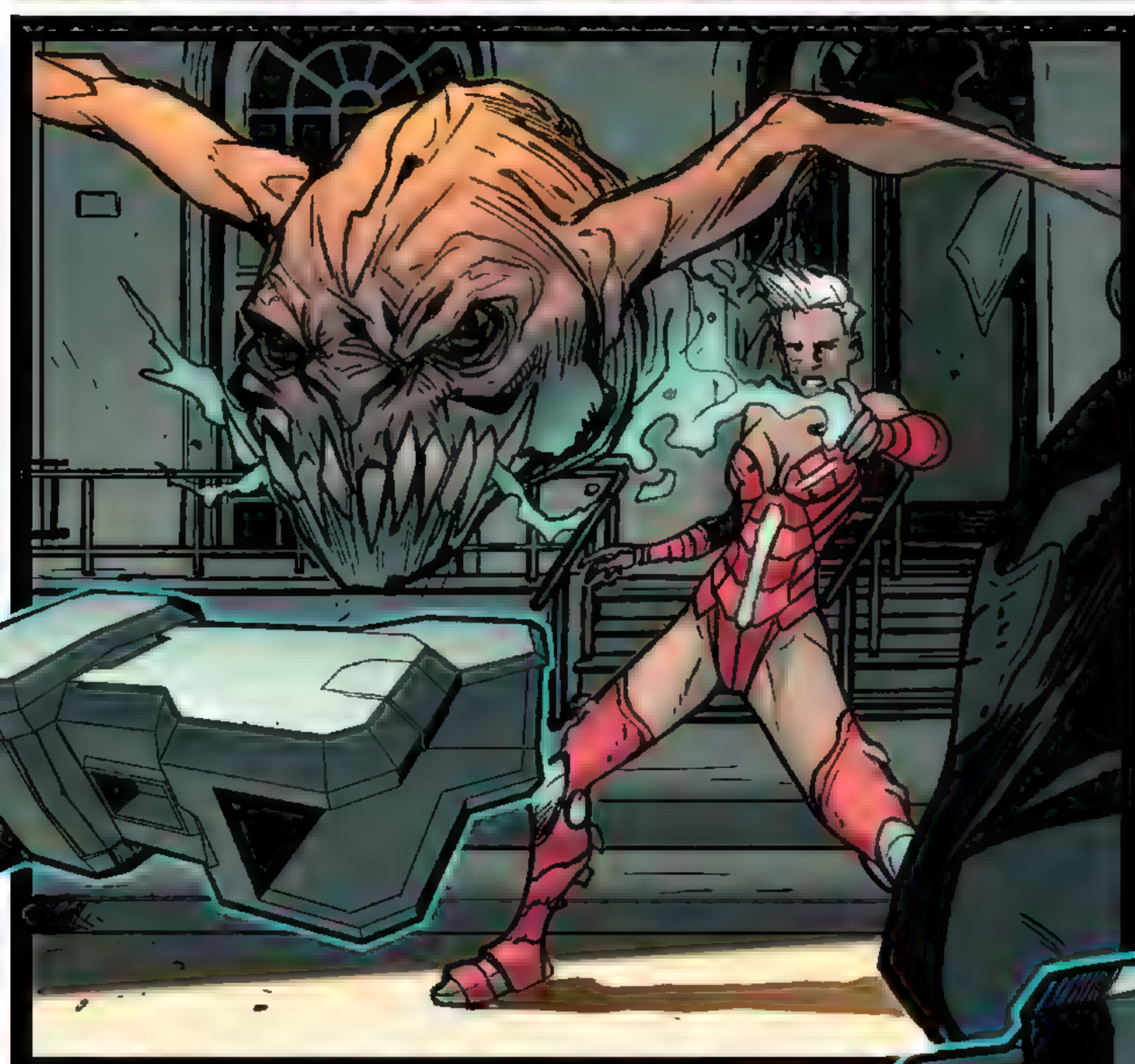
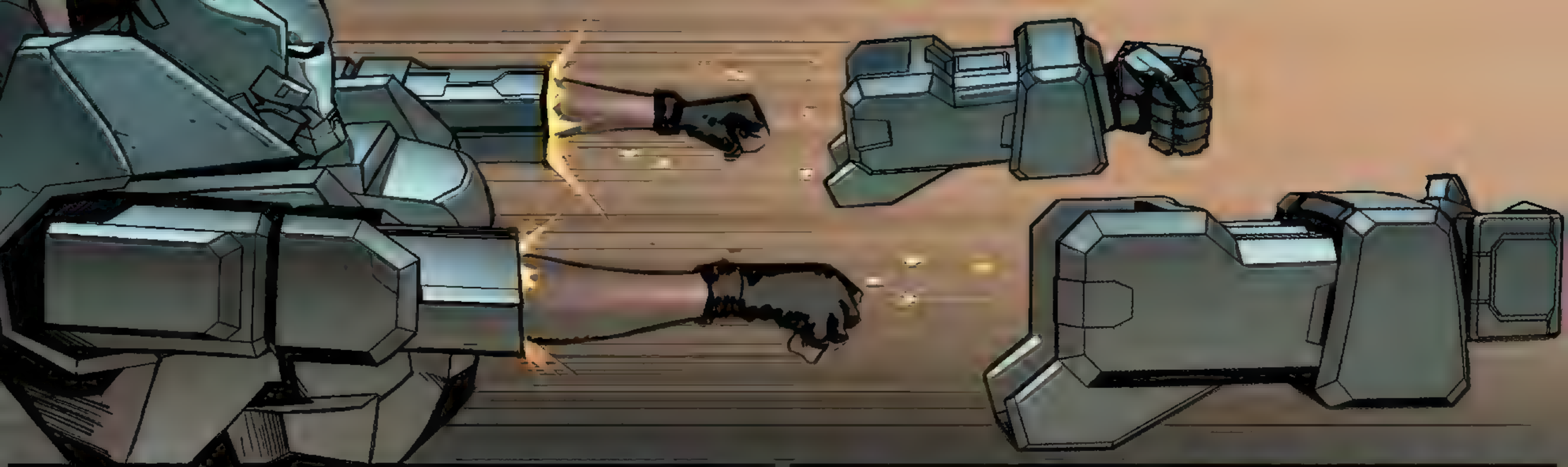


...KNOCK OUT THE MONSTER MAKER...THE MONSTERS GO BYE BYE.

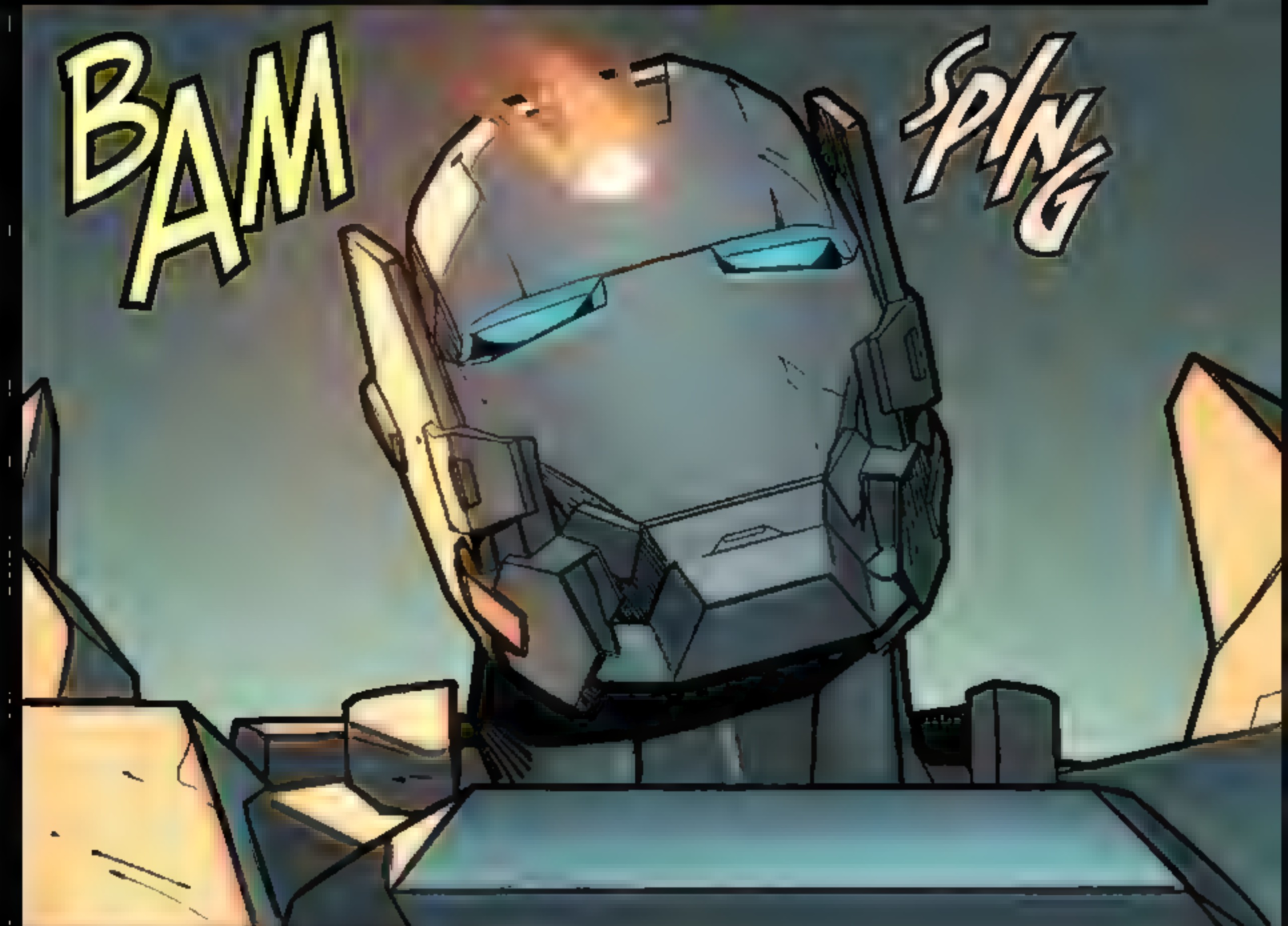
AND I'LL BE KICKING MYSELF FOR NOT FIGURING THAT OUT ON MY OWN FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS.

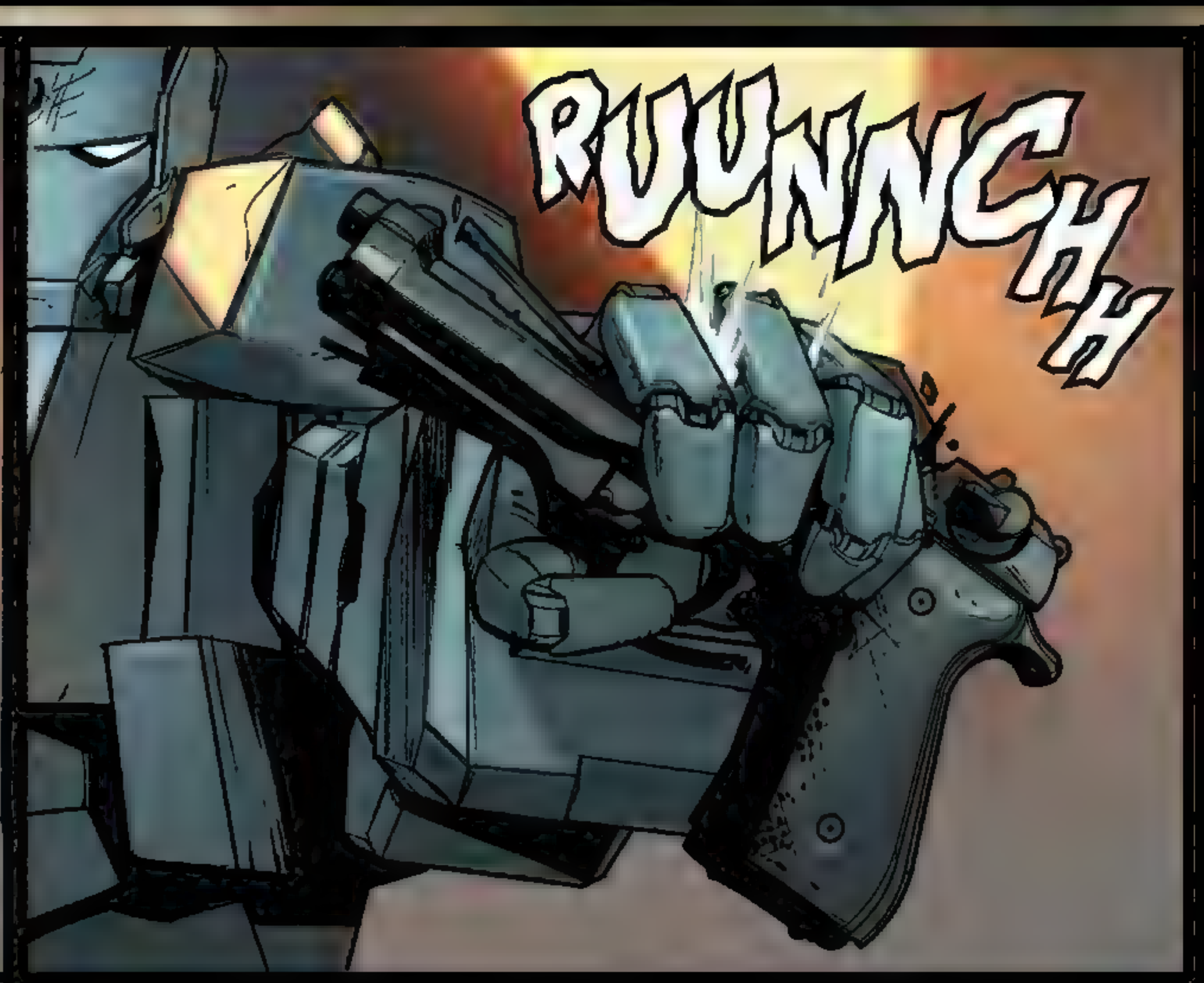
I CANNOT WAIT FOR THIS ENTIRE SOCIETY TO CRUMBLE UNDER YOU COWARDS!

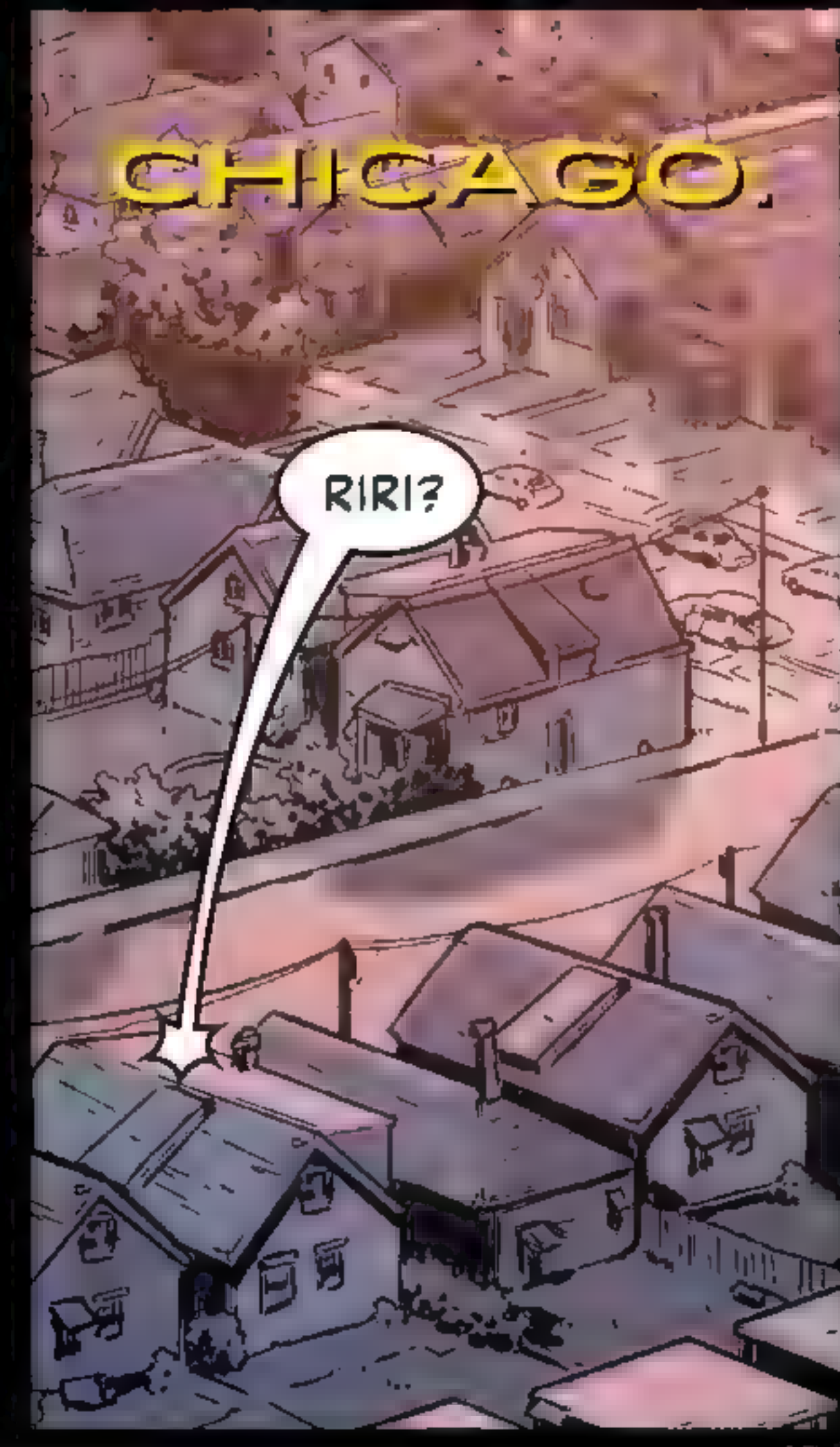
OKAY, LET'S TRY THIS UNTESTED BIT OF BUSINESS...

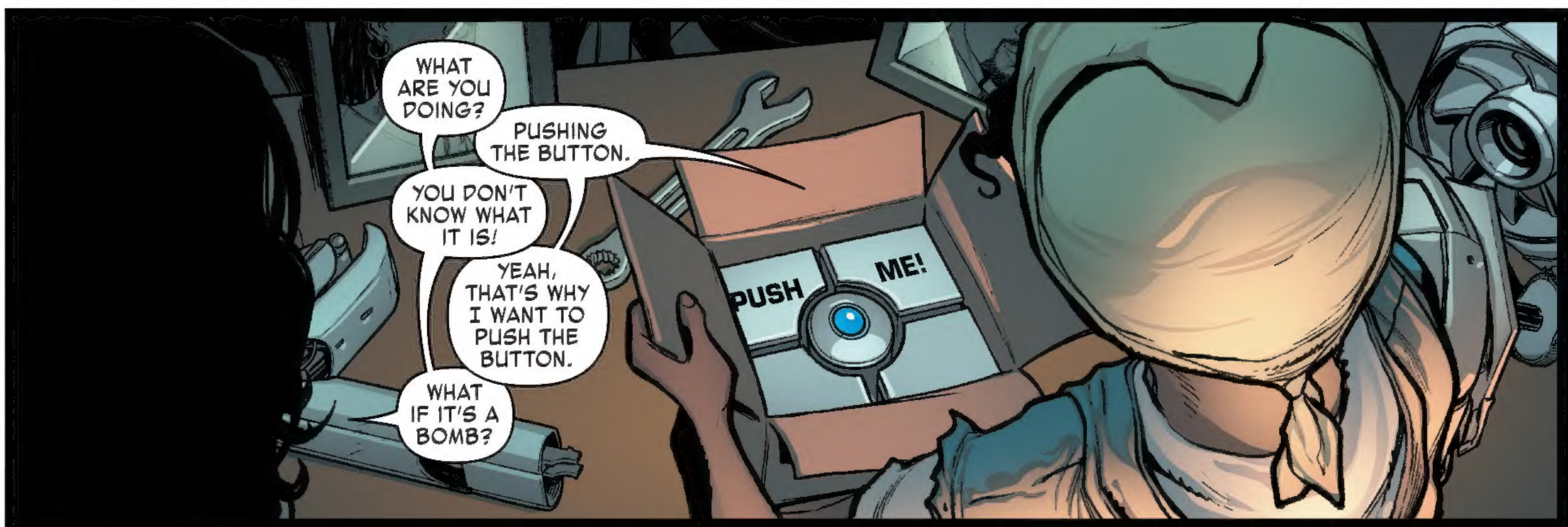


YOW!









SO,
HI. I'M TONY
STARK.

WELL, HIS
ESSENCE.

IN
ESSENCE.

I DOWNLOADED
MY FABULOUS SELF
INTO A DIGITAL FRAME
IN CASE MY BODY WAS
EVER...YOU KNOW,
NOT WORKING
ANYMORE.

SO,
THIS IS ME AS AN
ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
CONSTRUCT.

AND SINCE
I SEE YOU JUST
HAPPEN TO NEED AN
ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE CONSTRUCT
TO HELP RUN YOUR
FABULOUS NEW
SUIT...

...I
THINK WE
FOUND EACH
OTHER AT JUST
THE RIGHT
TIME.

SO, LET'S
GET TO WORK,
RIRI...

...WE
HAVE A LOT
TO DO.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Hey there, Shell-Heads--welcome to the letters page!

For those of you who are new around here, this is the part of the comic where I--the overworked, underpaid and usually slightly loopy assistant editor, Alanna Smith--answer your queries, complaints, concerns and compliments. For those of you who aren't new here and thought you would finally be rid of me after INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14, the joke's on you! You'll never be free of me!

Anyway, here's the deal: you can email us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** to let us know what you thought of Riri's first issue, and I'll do my best to respond here! Just be sure to mark your letters "Okay to Print" if you'd like to see them printed. Otherwise I will be forced to slowly drag them to my email's trash bin as my tears splash softly against my keyboard.

But that's enough about my tears! Enough, I say! Between the end of the previous INVINCIBLE IRON MAN run and the launch of this run, we got a few very nice letters that I am deigning to answer here. Let's get this show on the road!

Dear Spectacular Shell-Heads:

This is one of the things I've always wanted to see out of super hero comics. Granted I always expected that it would be the Distinguished Competition that delivered on this kind of story since they were always the "legacy hero" company, but despite creating a horde of delightful sidekicks, heirs and successors, they've never really had the guts to actually replace any of their heroes with those who are destined to inherit the cape (not since Hal and Barry took over for Alan and Jay, anyway, and that was a very different sort of thing).

But the idea that super heroes would inspire (or infuriate) others to pick up the mask is a big part of super hero comics and always has been. Training the new kids is another longstanding big part of it, whether they were sidekicks or teammates or rivals. But aside from a few notable--often temporary--exceptions, we hardly ever get to see someone step into the shoes of their mentor, not for real and not for long. But here you really seem to be setting up The Next Heroes in IRON MAN. Having Tony interact with both Doom and Riri is the perfect way to bring the story along to where you can pass it off to their hands and have it mean something. And that's what I've always wanted to see: the progression of heroes as the first generation inspires the second and the cape gets passed.

Because super heroes should change the world, and that means that things in the books have to change eventually too. Otherwise it all stagnates and we get the same stories over and over and over. Do I think we should suddenly replace all our heroes with new ones? Of course not! But every now and then, yes, I would like to see someone step down or move on or retire or even die, and someone else to take up the role they left behind. I want that to mean something. I want to see the next generation of heroes grow and shine and step out of the shadows of the ones who came before rather than being constantly relegated to "teen sidekick" status, long past the time where it makes sense to keep them mired in

that role.

Do I think we're really going to see the last of Tony Stark in the armor when this series of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN ends? Not a chance. It's not like this will be the first time someone else has taken up the armor (so all the whiners can take a chill pill, sheesh) and even back when Rhodey first stepped into the role, it felt like a temporary thing. But it would be great if we could have a nice long time with our new Shell-Heads (the good and the bad) to explore what the legacy of Tony Stark is (the good and the bad).

I hope nobody gets cold feet and shuts these kids down too early, or shoves them aside so the old guard can take over again. I don't think it diminishes one thing about the original heroes to have them pass off the cape from time to time; rather, I think it cements the importance of their position while letting the universe as a whole evolve. It also gives a character a chance to actually develop instead of being constantly returned to a "safe" status quo at the end of every arc. And I've wanted this kind of story for a long time. Good on Marvel for letting their universe grow and change and giving us the brave new world we've so long been promised by our heroes!

Nicky Wagman
Comix Connection

Receiving this letter from you was an absolute joy, Nicky! I couldn't have worded our hopes for Riri and the other legacy characters better myself. Part of the reason our writers like making moves like this is that it allows us to tell stories we haven't seen before, and it injects new life into characters who have been around for decades. And often the gravity of the original characters will pull things back to them eventually, but even if Tony takes up the mantle again, he'll be taking up a mantle that was reshaped by whoever came before him. In short, it's a blast for us and we're glad you're along for the ride!

Hi Alanna,

What's with another #1 issue? One doesn't appear to be enough for Tony Stark, he has to have 3 or 4! What's next? INVIDIOUS IRON MAN?

Brian's response in INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14 to the question of how does a white man write ethnic or female characters was really well reasoned and eloquently explained. There's some shocking antisemitism in Europe and particularly the UK at the moment; the bigots use the actions of Israel to justify their racism. It is very disappointing and the number of Jews in the UK has fallen from 400,000 to 260,000 in recent years. I wish I had a fraction of Brian's eloquence to explain what it means to see this appalling, irrational hatred raise its ugly head yet again.

Keep cheering me up with quality comics.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh

Hey Bruce! We did consider making Riri's takeover INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #15 rather than #1, but the story Brian wanted to tell just felt too big to tack onto the end of a run. And we wanted to launch Riri into the Marvel

Universe with fanfare and fireworks worthy of the awesome super hero she is.

Anyone interested in reading Brian's response can pick up INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #14, or check it out on Brian's Tumblr. Sorry to hear things are looking rough on the other side of the pond, Bruce.

This volume of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN, is ending already? That's really too bad, I was just waiting for the Bendis-Marquez team to return. And while I believe that legacy characters can be a good thing, having Riri Williams and Victor Von Doom take up separate Iron-mantles seems like an odd choice. Still, I trust Marvel and all of the writers and artists involved to keep making enjoyable comics that remain true to the characters.

This doesn't mean I haven't been enjoying the recent IRON MAN issues; I like them a lot. The "War Machines" arc was well-made, Deodato's art is attractive and Bendis's dialogue is witty and fun to read. I also love seeing the recurring cast of Mary Jane and Friday, who together act as the perfect foil to Tony Stark. It's been a good run, and I'm interested to see how "Ironheart" is presented in the INVINCIBLE IRON MAN relaunch.

Keep up the good work,
Josh Lamb

Hey there, Josh--hope you followed us into the new run of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! Riri's transformation into Ironheart is a story that we've all been really looking forward to telling, and I think it'll be worth the wait.

That's all for this time! We hope you enjoyed Riri's first solo outing! We've got big dreams for this cool little lady, and if you love her half as much as we do, we're doing okay. Until next time, Shell-Heads!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:



CRASH COURSE!

